

Message Text

CONFIDENTIAL

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ACTION NEA-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 NEAE-00 SSO-00 NSCE-00 INRE-00

USIE-00 OC-06 CCO-00 OPR-02 A-01 SY-05 SCS-03 SCA-01

PER-01 FS-01 PM-04 NSC-05 SP-02 SS-15 CIAE-00 DODE-00

INR-07 NSAE-00 PA-01 PRS-01 /078 W

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O 191515Z JUL 76

FM AMEMBASSY BEIRUT

TO AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS NIACT IMMEDIATE

INFO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 1220

AMEMBASSY ATHENS IMMEDIATE

C O N F I D E N T I A L BEIRUT 6422

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: AEMR, LE, US

SUBJECT: BEIRUT CONVOY ARRANGEMENTS

1. THE FOLLOWING ARRANGEMENTS HAVE BEEN MADE FOR THE TUESDAY, JULY 20, CONVOY FROM BEIRUT TO DAMASCUS:

A. AMERICAN CITIZENS AND OTHERS WHO HAVE REGISTERED TO GO WITH THIS CONVOY ARE BEING ASKED TO REGISTER AT THE RIVIERA HOTEL BETWEEN 0600 AND 0700 HOURS. WE ARE ALLOWING 30 MINUTES FOR POSSIBLE LATE REGISTRANTS AND FOR LOADING VEHICLES. THE CONVOY IS SCHEDULED TO DEPART AT 0730 HOURS AND IN NO CASE LATER THAN 0745.

B. CONVOY LEADER WILL BE DAO COL. F. J. HUNT. THE ASSISANT CONVOY LEADER WILL BE JAMES BUDEIT, CHIEF OF CONSULAR SECTION.

C. CONVOY WILL BE ARRANGED INTO 4 MARCH UNITS CONSISTING OF 4 BUSES EACH AND 4 TO 6 AUTOMOBILES OR TAXIS. SECURITY FORCES WILL LEAD EACH MARCH UNIT. WE ANTICIPATE THAT THE ENTIRE CONVOY WILL HAVE NO MORE THAN 15 BUSES AND 25 TO 30 AUTOMOBILES PLUS THE ESCORT UNITS WHICH WILL LEAVE THE CONVOY AT NABATIYA.

D. WE HAVE REQUESTED THAT ALL BUSES AND AUTOMOBILES BE FILLED WITH GASOLINE AND OIL BEFORE DEPARTURE. IF THIS IS NOT POSSIBLE, WE WILL PROVIDE SUFFICIENT GAS FROM EMBASSY STOCK TO GET THE CONVOY THROUGH THE SYRIAN LINES TO 3 KM NORTH OF RACHAYA

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AL WADI (SEE BEIRUT 6379). CAN DAMASCUS CONFIRM THAT

TANKER WILL BE AT THAT LOCATION NO LATER THAN 11 A.M.?

E. EMBASSY BEIRUT TRUCK WILL ALSO BE IN CONVOY CARRYING EXTRA LUGGAGE AND A LIMITED NUMBER OF JERRY CANS AS REQUESTED BY DAMASCUS FOR REFUELING IF NECESSARY.

F. YOU HAVE BEIRUT DAO MESSAGE 0584 JUL 76 CONCERNING CONVOY COMMUNICATIONS. IF NEW RADIOS ARRIVE FROM DAMASCUS TODAY, THE CONVOY SHOULD BE ABLE TO COMMUNICATE WITH BEIRUT AND DAMASCUS DURING THE ENTIRE TRIP. IF THESE RADIOS DO NOT ARRIVE, THE CONVOY WILL ONLY HAVE LIMITED VOICE COMMUNICATIONS CAPABILITY.

G. SHORTLY AFTER THE CONVOY DEPARTS, WE WILL INFORM DAMASCUS OF THOSE WISHING TO GO ON THE CHARTER FLIGHT TO ATHENS. WILL ATTEMPT TO LOAD THESE PASSENGERS IN SELECTED BUSES PLUS THE 7 EMBASSY BEIRUT CARS. IT IS REQUESTED THAT EMBASSY DAMASCUS ARRANGE FOR APPROPRIATE ASSISTANCE AT THE BORDER AND PROVIDE A GUIDE FOR THE VEHICLES GOING DIRECTLY FROM THE BORDER STATION TO THE DAMASCUS INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT. THE BALANCE OF THE CONVOY WILL PROCEED WHEN CLEARED FROM THE SYRIAN BORDER TO THE EMBASSY IN DAMASCUS WHERE PASSENGERS CAN DISPERSE AND MAKE THEIR OWN ARRANGEMENTS FOR ACCOMMODATIONS AND ASSISTANCE.

H. THE PASSENGERS ON THE CHARTER AIRCRAFT WILL NOT HAVE SIGNED PROMISSORY NOTES AND WE ASSUME THAT EMBASSY DAMASCUS WILL ARRANGE TO PROCESS THESE NOTES AT THE DAMASCUS AIRPORT.

I. THE 7 EMBASSY BEIRUT VEHICLES (6 OFFICIAL AND 1 PRIVATE) ARE BEING DRIVEN BY GOVERNMENT PERSONNEL WHO WILL DEPART ON THE CHARTER AIRCRAFT. CAN EMBASSY DAMASCUS ARRANGE TO HAVE THESE VEHICLES MOVED FROM THE AIRPORT TO THE EMBASSY? THE OFFICAL CARS CAN REMAIN IN DAMASCUS FOR YOUR USE FOR THE TIME BEING. THE ONE POV BELONGING TO SAID JABRIN IS TO BE FORWARDED TO EMBASSY ATHENS UNDER USIA EMERGENCY EVACUATION ORDERS T.A. 6-5198 DATED 11/5/75 FOR STORAGE.

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 JAN 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: n/a
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 19 JUL 1976
Decaption Date: 01 JAN 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: coburnhl
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1976BEIRUT06422
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Film Number: D760277-0444
From: BEIRUT
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1976/newtext/t19760746/aaaabnxu.tel
Line Count: 95
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Office: ACTION NEA
Original Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: CONFIDENTIAL
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Authority: coburnhl
Review Comment: n/a
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 19 AUG 2004
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review History: WITHDRAWN <29 APR 2004 by CollinP0, 22USC4354(B)INTERNAL SEC.>; RELEASED <19 AUG 2004 by coburnhl>; APPROVED <19 AUG 2004 by coburnhl>
Review Markings:

Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
04 MAY 2006

Review Media Identifier:
Review Referrals: n/a
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: BEIRUT CONVOY ARRANGEMENTS
TAGS: AEMR, LE, US
To: DAMASCUS
Type: TE
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 04 MAY 2006